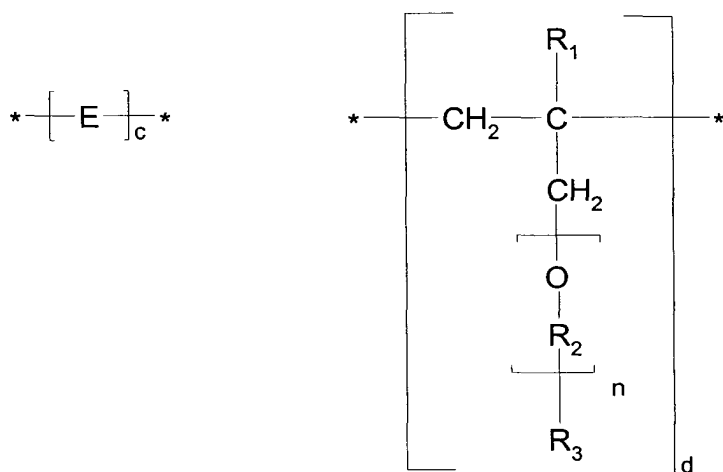


ABSTRACT

[0046] Methods of enhancing performance of a semi-permeable filtration membrane such as a polyamide R.O. membrane. A water soluble polymer is brought into contact with the membrane structure and is characterized by the Formula I

Formula I



wherein E is a repeat unit remaining after polymerization of an ethylenically unsaturated monomer or mixtures thereof; R_1 is hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 alkyl; R_2 is C_1 - C_6 alkyl, C_1 - C_6 alkylene, di-hydroxy substituted C_1 - C_6 alkyl, di-hydroxy substituted C_1 - C_6 alkylene, aryl, or mixtures thereof; n is 0 to about 100; R_3 is OH, SO_3Z , OSO_3Z , PO_3Z_2 , OPO_3Z_2 , CO_2Z , or mixtures thereof; Z is hydrogen or a water-soluble cation; and the mole ratio c:d ranges from about 30:1 to 1:20 respectively.